Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

to serve as a food-basis, as some Catostomidæ, which may be found at similar altitudes of the adjacent regions. Such species (*Catostomus labiatus* e.g.) are found in the Snake River of Idaho, and could be easily procured.

The wisdom of Dr. Hayden in proposing and of Congress in directing the reservation of this tract is abundantly vindicated. It will be well if the Yosemite Park of California can be made equally useful as a game preserve. The time will come when a similar preserve for the game of our Eastern Region will become important. The wild country about the head of some of the eastern tributaries of the Tennessee River in North Carolina furnishes good localities for such a reservation.

RECENT LITERATURE.

A New Text-book of Animal Physiology.[1]—This book, intended "for students of human and comparative (veterinary) medicine and of general biology," is unique in several respects. The subject is treated from the standpoints of general biology and the theory of evolution, and an attempt is made to introduce the comparative method into physiology. There is no doubt that this fundamental idea is the correct one, and that physiological processes, to be fully understood, must be considered as evolutions. That this aspect of the subject has not been greatly accentuated is doubtless due to the fact that physiology has been so long and so universally recognized mainly as the handmaid of hygiene and medicine, hence of necessity *par excellence* human. A change in this respect is inevitable, and is already begun. Investigations of the vital processes, of the mechanics, the physics, the chemistry of the bodies of a few of the higher animals, with especial reference to the human mechanism, have been pushed far within a few years. But a slowing—not a stoppage—of such investigations must, sooner or later, take place; and investigators will more and more ask themselves how have these wonderful and complex vital, these mechanical, physical, and chemical processes of the highest animal body come to be? Any attempt, like the present, to bring about this change is to be welcomed and commended.

---

[1] A Text-book of Animal Physiology, by Wesley Mills. Pp. 700; New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1889.

The book begins with a discussion of questions of general biology, such as the cell, yeast, protococcus, amœba, fungi, bacteria, vorticella, hydra, classification of animals, and theory of evolution. Starting then from the ovum and spermatozoon, reproduction is fully treated; a short discussion of the prominent theories of heredity completing the subject. A chapter on the chemical constitution of the animal body, and one on physiological research and physiological reasoning, are followed by a full and orderly treatment of each of the systems of organs found in the body.

Facts are intentionally stated with not too great, sometimes with insufficient, detail, and are discussed impartially, intelligently, and broadly. Occasional want of clearness and disregard of the rules of rhetoric may be remedied in a second edition. Caution is constantly expressed against the acceptance of purely physical, mechanical, and also simple explanations of vital processes, as witness: "The complexity of vital processes is great beyond our comprehension." "The laws of physiology cannot be laid down in the rigid way that has prevailed to so large an extent up to the present time." "And if in this, the best-studied case [secretion in the salivary glands], mechanical theories of vital processes utterly fail, why attempt to fasten them upon other glands, as the kidneys or the lungs, or, indeed, apply such crude conceptions to the subtle processes of living protoplasm anywhere or in any form?" The author's doubts are suggestive. One cannot repress the thought, however, that much of the discussions is written for and is more fitting for the professional physiologist than the inexperienced student. The latter is everywhere made "expectant of progress." Self-observation, testing of facts wherever possible on one's own body, is constantly urged, as well as the comparative study of animal mechanisms. The illustrations are abundant, generally well-chosen, and excellently reproduced. The original diagrams are valuable. The causation of the heart-beat—a field in which the author himself has worked—is well summed up. Gaskell's idea of the cardiac vagus and sympathetic, as respectively anabolic and katabolic, is practically accepted; and the same physiologist's views as to the nature and relations of the cranial, spinal, and sympathetic nerves are given and commended. The discussion of the influence of the nervous system on metabolism is original and interesting. Throughout the book the author has thought his own way. His doubts and his frequent lack of acceptance of conventional ideas will call forth opposition, but his work is suggestive and stimulating.